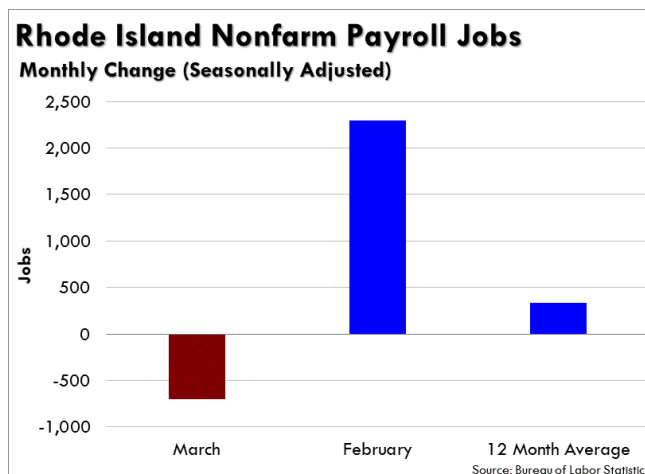
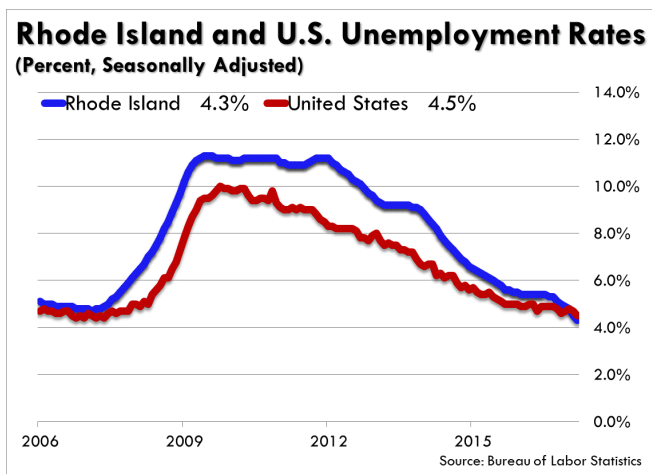


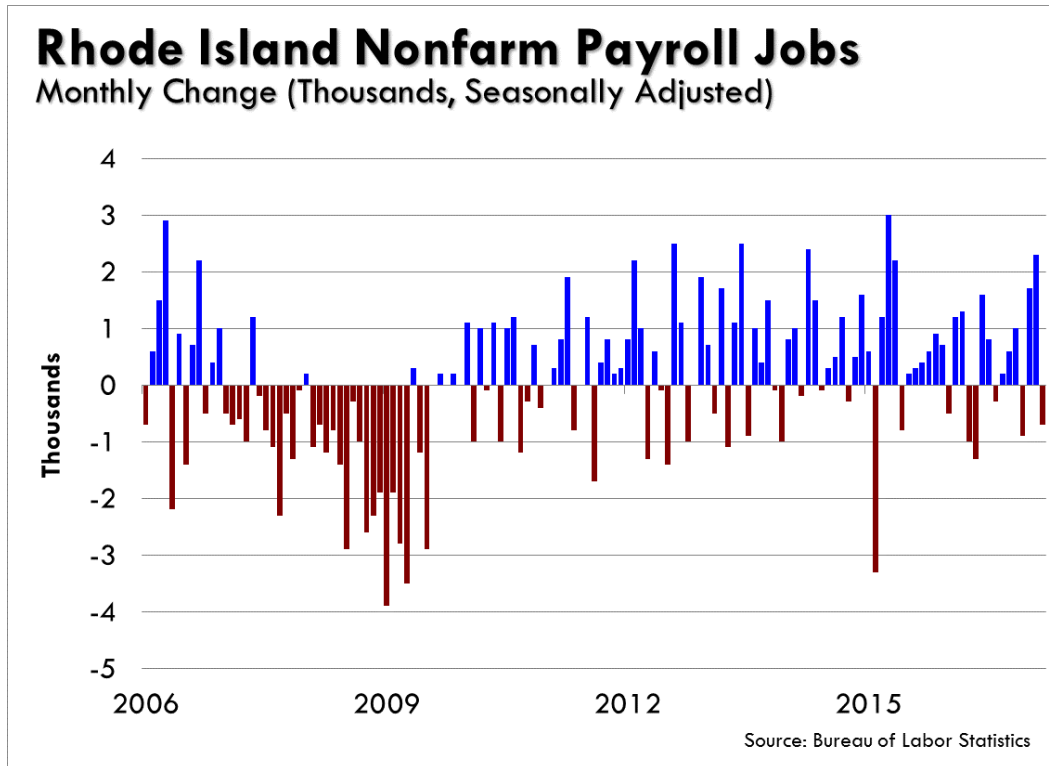


April 23, 2017

Summary

- **Rhode Island lost 700 jobs and the unemployment rate declined by 0.2 percentage point to 4.3 percent in March** according to Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) data.
- **Over the past twelve months, Rhode Island added 4,000 jobs** and the unemployment rate fell by 1.1 percentage points from 5.4 percent.
- **In March, Rhode Island's private sector lost 600 jobs** and over the past twelve months it created 3,800 jobs.
- The number of **unemployed Rhode Islanders fell by 1,105 in March**, and over the past year 7,635 Rhode Islanders found jobs.
- Rhode Island's **labor force participation rate increased to 64.5 percent** from 64.3 percent in March. Since last year, the labor force participation rate is unchanged.
- The national unemployment rate **declined by 0.2 percentage point to 4.5 percent in March**. State employment and unemployment data for April is scheduled for release on May 19, 2017. The national employment situation report for April will be released on Friday, May 5, 2017.





Rhode Island Payroll Employment

Rhode Island lost 700 jobs, or 0.14 percent, on a seasonally adjusted basis during March. In the prior month, Rhode Island added 2,300 jobs. Over the past twelve months, nonfarm payrolls in Rhode Island increased by 4,000, or 0.82 percent. Rhode Island nonfarm payroll employment has increased in 7 of the past 12 months.

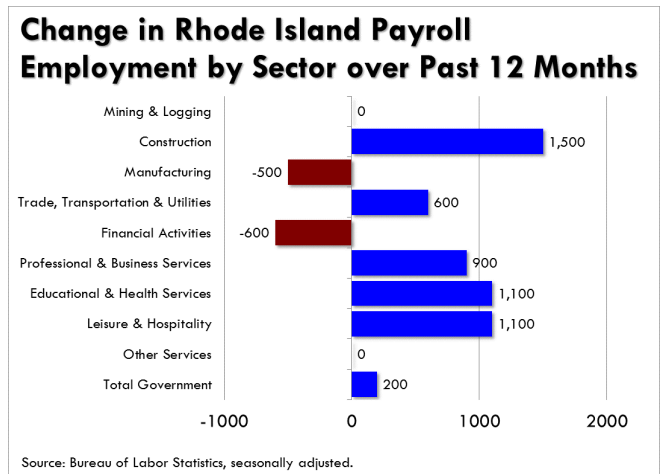
Nationally, nonfarm payrolls increased by 98,000 jobs in March, or 0.07 percent. Over the 12-month period ending March 2017, nonfarm payrolls grew by 2,185,000 jobs, or 1.52 percent. Rhode Island ranks 40th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During March, Rhode Island's private-sector lost 600 jobs, or 0.14 percent. The private-sector in Rhode Island added 2,200 jobs in the prior month. Over the past twelve months, private-sector payrolls in Rhode Island increased by 3,800, or 0.88 percent. Rhode Island private-sector payroll employment has increased in 7 of the past 12 months.

Nationally, private-sector payroll jobs increased by 89,000 jobs in March, or 0.07 percent. Over the past 12 months, the nation's economy has added 2,033,000 jobs in the private-sector, an increase of 1.67 percent. Rhode Island ranks 34th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in private-sector payroll employment over the past 12 months.

The best performing sectors on a seasonally adjusted basis during March were Educational & Health Services (+800) and Manufacturing (+200). The poorest performing sectors during the month were Professional & Business Services (-600) and Leisure & Hospitality (-600).

The best performing sectors during the last twelve months were Construction (+1,500) and Educational & Health Services (+1,100). The poorest performing sectors during the last twelve months were Financial Activities (-600) and Manufacturing (-500).



Rhode Island Labor Force Statistics

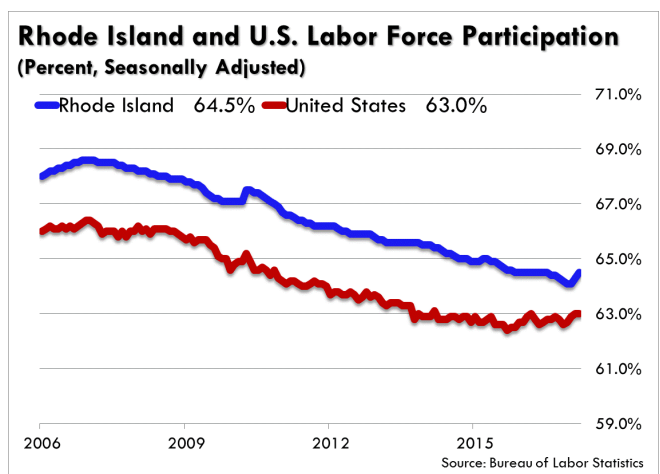
Labor Force Participation

The labor force participation rate in Rhode Island rose to 64.5 percent in March from 64.3 percent the prior month. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 20 have a higher labor force participation rate than Rhode Island. The labor force participation rate in Rhode Island is unchanged from a year earlier. The labor force participation rate is the percentage of the civilian noninstitutionalized population age 16 and older who are employed or actively looking for work.

The 10-year high for the labor force participation rate in Rhode Island was 68.5 percent in July 2007. The series high for the labor force participation rate in Rhode Island occurred in February 2007 when the labor force participation rate hit 68.6 percent. The 10-year low for the labor force participation rate was 64.1 percent in January 2017. The series low for the labor force participation rate occurred in October 1976 when the labor force participation rate hit 62.8 percent. The national labor force participation rate was unchanged at 63.0 percent, but remains near its 38-year low of 62.4 percent.

Employment-to-Population Ratio

The employment-to-population ratio, or the percentage of the Rhode Island civilian noninstitutionalized population 16 years and older counted as employed, rose to 61.7



percent in March from 61.4 percent the prior month. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 23 have higher employment-to-population ratios than Rhode Island. The employment-to-population ratio in Rhode Island is 0.7 percentage point higher than a year earlier.

The 10-year high for the employment-to-population ratio in Rhode Island was 65.2 percent in May 2007. The series high for the employment-to-population ratio in Rhode Island occurred in March 1989 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 66.0 percent. The 10-year low for the employment-to-population ratio was 58.8 percent in January 2012. The series low for the employment-to-population ratio occurred in December 1976 when the employment-to-population ratio was 57.5 percent.

The national employment-to-population ratio rose by 0.1 percentage point to 60.1 percent in March. That rate was 0.2 percentage point higher than a year earlier. The all-time high for the employment-to-population ratio was 64.7 in April 2000. The 10-year high for the employment-to-population ratio was 63.4 percent in December 2006. The recent low occurred in October 2013 when the employment-to-population ratio dipped to 58.2 percent. The last time the employment-to-population ratio posted a reading lower than 58.2 percent was July 1983.

